| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Integrated Development of Mewar-Vagad Circuit comprising of places in Udaipur-Rajasamand-Chittorgarh-Banswara-Doongarpur districts as Tourist Circuit | 580.00 |
| 4. | Development of Brij Bhoomi religious Tourist circuit comprising of Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana, Jheel, Kalia Devi, Poonchari, Neelkanth, Bharthrihari in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh | 477.07 |
| 5. | Integrated Development of Pushkar (District Ajmer as a Tourist Destination) | 434.04 |
| 6. | Celebration of Jaipur Heritage International Festival, 2006 | 15.00 |
| | TOTAL: | 2099.69 |
| | 2006-07 | |
| 1. | Integrated Development of Udaipur as a Tourist Destination | 276.68 |
| 2. | Conservation, Restoration and Preservation of Gargoan Fort, Jhalawar Distt., Rajasthaaunder Destination Dev. Scheme | 281.71 |
| 3. | Rajasthan Day, 2007 | 10.00 |
| 4. | Jaipur Heritage International Festival, 2007 | 10.00 |
| 5. | Pushkar Fair, 2006 | 05.00 |
| 6. | Desert Festival, 2007 | 05.00 |
| | TOTAL: | 588.39 |

**Promotion of tourism in Orissa**

1452. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism can contribute to Gross Domestic Product in a big way and generate ample employment opportunities in the backward regions;

(b) whether tourism has not picked up substantially in the backward State of Orissa, though it has good potential in this sector, as it gets one of the lowest tourist headcount in the country;

(c) whether a demand has been made by the hotel industry of Orissa that international conferences should equally be organized in Orissa to boost tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, indicating the action of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tourism has been gradually picking up in Orissa as is apparent from the annual growth of 8.4%, 11.5% and 12.3% in the number of tourist visits to the State during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. However, it is generally recognized that Orissa, with its great treasures of art, architecture and rich cultural heritage, *viz.,* festivals, dances, handicrafts, its rural countryside, wildlife and beautiful beaches, etc. spread throughout the State, has immense tourism potential to improve foreign and domestic tourist visits with better tourism infrastructure such as hotels, road, rail and air connectivity and vigoruous promotion and marketing efforts.

(c) and (d) No representation has been received by the Ministry from the hotel industry of Orissa in this regard. The Ministry of Tourism is, however, committed towards promotion of different tourism products, including International Conferences, Exhibitions and Meetings in all the States of the country, including Orissa. The India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB), which has members from travel trade industry, is a nonprofit organization sponsored by the Ministry, with the objective to promote India as an ideal destination for International Conferences and to assist organizers with the bidding and management of International Conferences and Conventions. The Ministry of Tourism also helps the States in organizing fam tours of foreign tour operators for better marketing of State tourism products.

**Declaration of Shrt Naithana Devi mountain as a Model Tourist Site**

†1453. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation has been received regarding

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.